

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method for determining a per-point price for data processing services, comprising the steps of:

for each unit of a plurality of units of data processing services, determining a level of environmental complexity, a level of change, and a type of environment;

for each unit of the plurality of units, assigning points to the unit responsive to its level of environmental complexity, level of change, and type of environment, as determined, and summing the assigned points to provide a count of points for the unit;

summing the counts of points for all the units of the plurality of units to provide a total number of points for the data processing services;

dividing a baseline price for the data processing services by the total number of points to provide a per-point price.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining further includes a step of selecting the level of environmental complexity from a plurality of predetermined levels of environmental complexity.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the predetermined levels of environmental complexity include simple, medium, and complex.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining further includes a step of selecting the level of change from a plurality of predetermined levels of change.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the predetermined levels of change include low, medium, and high.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining further includes a step of selecting the type of environment from a plurality of predetermined types of environments.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the predetermined types of environments include support,
2 development, and production.

1 8. A method for determining a per-point price for data processing services, comprising the steps
2 of:

3 for each unit of a plurality of units of data processing services, selecting a level of
4 environmental complexity from a plurality of predetermined levels of environmental complexity,
5 selecting a level of change from a plurality of predetermined levels of change, and selecting a
6 type of environment from a plurality of predetermined types of environments;

7 for each unit of the plurality of units, assigning points to the unit responsive to its selected
8 level of environmental complexity, level of change, and type of environment, and summing the
9 assigned points to provide a count of points for the unit;

10 summing the counts of points for all the units of the plurality of units to provide a total
11 number of points for the data processing services; and;

12 dividing a baseline price for the data processing services by the total number of points to
13 provide a per-point price.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the predetermined levels of environmental complexity include simple, medium, and complex; wherein the predetermined levels of change include low, medium, and high; and wherein the predetermined types of environments include support, development, and production.

10. A method for adjusting a baseline price of data processing services when a unit is added, comprising the steps of:

determining, from a baseline price, a per-point price for data processing services;
determining a level of environmental complexity, a level of change, and a type of environment for a unit to be added to the data processing services;

determining a count of points for the unit to be added, using the level of environmental complexity, level of change, and type of environment;

determining an adjustment to the baseline price for adding the unit, using the per-point price and the count of points for the unit; and

adjusting the baseline price using the adjustment.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of determining a per-point price further includes
2 the steps of:

3 for each unit of a plurality of units of the data processing services, selecting the level of
4 environmental complexity from a plurality of predetermined levels of environmental complexity,
5 selecting the level of change from a plurality of predetermined levels of change, and selecting the
6 type of environment from a plurality of predetermined types of environments;

7 for each unit of the plurality of units, assigning points to the unit responsive to its level of
8 environmental complexity, level of change, and type of environment, as selected, and summing
9 the assigned points to provide a count of points for the unit;

10 summing the counts of points for all the units of the plurality of units to provide a total
11 number of points; and

12 dividing the baseline price by the total number of points to provide the per-point price.

1 12. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of determining the adjustment to the baseline price
2 further includes a step of multiplying together the count of points for the unit to be added and the
3 per-point price.